



Key Text: Choose one of the texts from Wednesday’s portion of the lesson. Write it here and memorize it this week.

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THE CASE OF THE ABSENT HOMEROOM TEACHER

(What connection do you think the following illustration has with the Bible texts on the other page?)

“Class,” Mrs. Williams told her ninth-grade students with a twinkle in her eyes, “starting Monday, I’ll be on maternity leave.”

Everybody gasped. They had hoped she would be with them on the Fantasy Park trip.

“That’s great!” Susan Wiltshire said, collecting herself. “If it’s a girl, name her Susan!”

“No way!” Jim Usher joined in. “It’s going to be a boy, and she’s naming him after me.”

“Well, as great as you all are,” Mrs. Williams smiled, “the names are already chosen. If it’s a boy, he’ll be named after my husband, and if it’s a girl, she’ll be named after me.” She hurried on to cushion the class’s disappointment. “While I’m gone, though, I want Jim to make sure Team A finishes their science project, and Susan can do the same with Team B.”

“How long will you be gone?” Jim asked.

“A few weeks, but a substitute will be here to teach you. Since you’ve just about finished your projects, pass them in by nine o’clock May 14, a month from today.”

“That’s when we go to the amusement park!” Susan gasped. “If we don’t finish our projects, we can’t go!”

“Not to fear, Susan,” Mrs. Williams replied. “You’ve got more than enough time to finish.” Then, her eyes twinkling, she added, “And I’ll work on being here for the ten o’clock Fantasy Park trip.”

After Mrs. Williams went on leave, the groups worked hard on their projects. Then everybody gradually slacked off, figuring they’d finish everything later. However, Susan’s group made its materials, while Jim’s group waited for a department store sale to buy theirs.

Then one day the substitute teacher reminded them, “Today’s May 14, and your projects are due!”

They all stopped cold in their tracks.

“Guys,” Susan yelled, heading for the last of the materials. “Let’s finish everything now!”

“Hey,” Jim bellowed, “we need materials . . . Quick, Susan, lend us some of yours.”

“Sorry, Jim. We don’t have enough for our group and yours. Hurry to the store!”

Jim’s group left in a cloud of dust. While they were gone, Susan’s group finished their project, and Mrs. Williams came and took the jubilant Team B to Fantasy Park.

Sunday
HERE’S WHAT I THINK

>> Lately, Sandra’s been going to church for more than meeting her friends, hearing the latest scoop, and planning after-Sabbath activities. She has a growing urge to know Jesus better. Once when the pastor preached on Jesus’ second coming, she felt that something—or Someone—was nudging her to accept Jesus publicly. But she knows that if she acts on these convictions, her group will label her “Holy Jane.” On the other hand, she wants to get ready for Jesus’ return.

>> What should Sandra do? Is it possible to have it both ways? What will probably be the result either way she goes?

>> Log on to www.guidemagazine.org/rtf to post your responses. Be upfront and honest. Say what you think.

Monday
WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Different people, different opinions. Some of the quotations below represent the views of true kingdom citizens; others may not. Can you tell the difference? How do these statements compare with what God is saying in His Word? After reviewing the texts in the God Says . . . portion of the lesson, write a statement that captures your belief. Be prepared to quote yourself at Sabbath School.

>> “God never made a promise that was too good to be true.”—*Dwight L. Moody, 19th-century U.S. evangelist.*

>> “Can you tell a plain man the road to heaven? Certainly, turn at once to the right, then go straight forward.”—*William Wilberforce, 18th-19th-century English philanthropist.*

>> “Heaven will be inherited by every man who has heaven in his soul.”—*Henry Ward Beecher, 19th-century U.S. minister.*

>> “The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.”—*Ellen White, 19th-century inspired author and church cofounder.*

>> “According to *Left Behind*, the return of Jesus actually takes place in two distinct phases. First, Jesus returns silently and secretly, unnoticed by the world. At that moment Christians will be ‘caught up,’ or raptured, which is interpreted as the sudden vanishing of millions of people all over the globe. The rest of mankind, having been left behind, are then ushered into a ‘seven-year period called the Tribulation.’” —*Steve Wohlberg, current U.S. minister.*

Write your own quotation.
What I say is . . .

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Tuesday
SO WHAT?

- >> Look around you. Everything in this world is in a mess, and doesn't seem to be getting any better. Wars overturn governments, destroy buildings, and split up families. Everywhere there is death and there is loss. Mysterious diseases strike, threatening whole groups of humans, as well as animals. Natural disasters are on the rise, and crime keeps inventing new ways to inflict pain and terror.
- >> These events all shout that something BIG is about to happen. Just like a person dying from cancer or AIDS, our hopelessly sick world announces that it cannot last much longer. Life has strayed so far from what God intended it to be that God must surely send His Son to destroy sin and restore earth to the wonderful, perfect place He created it to be.
- >> But true to His nature of love, God has extended the time for us to get ready for Jesus' return. The awful things we see around us He uses to warn us. But the time for making the choice to let Him get us out of this mess is almost over. Very soon He has to come and put an end to sin and rescue those of us who have chosen to let Him fix us up and get us out of here.
- >> Why on earth would a wise person want to waste this last bit of time, when making the decision to follow Jesus out of all this will guarantee a forever life of peace, joy, and adventure?



Thursday
WHAT DOES THIS
HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

- >> The Second Coming is going to be the greatest event in history. It represents the victory of God's way over Satan's way. Accompanied by millions of rejoicing angels, Jesus comes to earth with a trumpet blast that wakes the dead. Like a champion who has defeated a powerful enemy, He shouts His joy about bringing sin and suffering to an end.
- >> Before your birth, He formed you, preparing your pathway for life. After birth, He stuck by you in good times and in bad. Despite your sins, He loved you as though you were the only person on earth. Now as He enters earth's atmosphere, He looks for you. He itches to hug you, to take you away from every remembrance of sin and death forever, and, at long last, to introduce you to His Father.
- >> Would you disappoint Someone who loves you that much? Who did so much for you? Who values you so highly? Pleasure, money, and popularity can never compare with Him! Can never match the wonder of living with Him in a perfect world that daily increases your joy, peace, and love! Please make up your mind to accept this wonderful bargain today.
- >> You'll never regret it!



Wednesday
GOD SAYS . . .

- >> **Matthew 1:21 (NIV)**
"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- >> **John 14:1-3 (NIV)**
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
- >> **1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)**
"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
- >> **Matthew 24:24 (NIV)**
"For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible."
- >> **Matthew 24:27 (NIV)**
"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."
- >> **Luke 12:32 (KJV)**
"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
- >> **Isaiah 11:6-9 (KJV)**
"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."
- >> **Isaiah 65:22 (NIV)**
"No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands."
- >> (More: Luke 21:25-28; Hebrews 12:1, 2; Titus 2:13.)



Friday
HOW DOES IT WORK?

- >> Think of all the things that you really love. Often what we value is determined not only by what we say about something but also by what we think of it and do about it. What, for instance, is it you think of most? What is it you spend a lot of time doing—or wishing that you could do? What is it that you could talk about for a long time—and not feel time pass? In short, what is it that really has your affections? Write a paragraph identifying these things.

- >> End the activity by asking God to reveal Himself to you as your best Friend. Ask Him to help you to continue loving the things that help you and others get ready for His return, and pray for strength to stop doing anything that hinders your relationship with Him or readiness for His coming.

- >> After writing, ask yourself the following questions:
 1. Can the things that I love compare with Jesus or match what He has in store for me in heaven?
 2. Is what I love helping or hindering my preparation for Jesus' second coming?
 3. If they are helping my preparation, how can I share them with others?
 4. If they are hindering my preparation, are they worth my time and affection?
- >> Write another paragraph recording your answers to the questions.

